

per person. This has increased 9,000 percent to almost \$50 a person under the coalition provisional authority.

Just as striking, a member of the first marine expeditionary force told me a story about having gone into a medical library, he is a registered nurse, Lieutenant Colonel Keller was his name. He had gone into a medical library in Iraq and not one textbook had a copyright date later than 1984. Clearly, this is a country that has suffered massively as far as its infrastructure is concerned.

But, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to relate to my colleagues the good news. I wanted to relate to my colleagues what General Ricardo Sanchez told us while we were there. He talked to us about 90 days of progress that has been made in the country of Iraq. He pointed out that schools have concluded their school year and have conducted testing. They are beginning a new school year this month. Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of the major cities and towns have functioning town councils, and over 50 Iraqis are contributing to their own security in their Army independent of those who are already in the police force. Their prisons are on the verge of reopening. Their judicial system is functioning. Food distribution is occurring. There was no humanitarian crisis in Iraq. Their hospitals are functioning, below standards, but far better than they were before; and, most importantly, 4¼ million children were immunized. General Sanchez pointed out, and this is very important, Mr. Speaker, all of these things have happened within 90 days in Iraq. None of these things had happened within a year after our arrival in Kosovo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHUSTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ETHERIDGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OXLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BEREUTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. HARRIS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IMMIGRATION POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, although there are some signs that the Federal government is beginning to show some attention to, and there are some signs of progress actually in our efforts to reform the immigration system and to, in fact, increase the degree of security that we have on our borders after 9-11 and, I should say that these are very small steps, but they are steps that have been taken, and we should recognize them. The fact is that we are in the process of improving the technology that we can use to make sure that the people coming into the country as visitors are who they say they are. There is both software and hardware that have to be in place now, but at least we are moving in that direc-

tion. Recently I found that we are building some barriers on the southern border, especially in and around the Douglas, Arizona area. Hopefully, these barriers will be there to protect the national parks from being inundated as they have been for some time now by hundreds of thousands of people crossing that border, and coming into the United States illegally.

There was a terrorism conference not too long ago in, I believe it was in El Paso, Texas, and several members of the administration actually recognized, actually stated, that there were problems with our immigration policy, especially as they reflected upon the security implications of this country after 9-11. That in and of itself is a very good sign, a very good sign. Somebody is at least willing to talk about the security of our borders. I think, in fact, the phrase used at the security conference down in Texas and the phrase used by a representative of the administration was that the borders are "our first lines of defense." Now, of course, we have stated that on many, many occasions. Those of us who are concerned about this issue have used those same words now for several years. But it is indeed heartening that we are hearing them being repeated now by members of the administration.

Recently I had an opportunity to visit the southern border. I went down during our August recess, I went down to Brownsville, Texas and spent some time down there looking at our border operation, actually going out on patrol with members of the Border Patrol. We went down the Rio Grande River in the evening and watched as we implemented Operation Gatekeeper and other similar types of endeavors that are designed to tighten up border security on the southern border. And I must tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged by what I saw. I saw a lot of dedicated people working very, very hard to make sure that the borders of this country are maintained, defended, and enforced. I had the great opportunity to speak to maybe 100 or so Border Patrol agents who were about ready to go out on muster, ride after muster, I should say, and wished them well and encouraged them in their efforts and, to a person, they encouraged me to continue the efforts here in the House of Representatives to encourage my colleagues to pay attention to this issue, to become involved regardless of how unpleasant we may find it to be when we get involved in this issue.

There are a lot of people, of course, who shy away from it because of the political ramifications that they fear. But there are ramifications to the country that are far more severe and far more serious than the political ramifications to someone's career here in this House.

So I was encouraged, and I have been encouraged by a few things I have seen. Now, we are a long, long way from saying that things are good and that the